

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 189479
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 DODE-00 L-03 SP-02
TRSE-00 CCO-00 EUR-12 /061 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH,JR.:JCM
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH
H - MR. KENNEY

-----083090 270412Z /15 S

O P 270319Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 189479

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, MARR, KS, US

SUBJECT: SENATE KOREA DEBATE AND MUTUAL SECURITY ACT
AMENDMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 186618, (B) STATE 88116.

1. AFTER DIVERTING SENATOR HELMS EFFORT TO LIFT RHODESIA
SANCTIONS, THE SENATE FINALLY REACHED THE KOREA ISSUE
EARLY WEDNESDAY EVENING (JULY 26). TWO HOURS OF DEBATE
ON KOREA WERE CONCLUDED WITH THE PASSAGE SHORTLY AFTER
NINE P.M. BY ROLLCALL VOTE 81 TO 7 OF THE FOLLOWING
AMENDMENT:

2. BEGIN TEXT

POLICY ON THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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SEC. 26. IT IS THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT FURTHER
WITHDRAWAL OF GROUND FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA MAY SERIOUSLY RISK UPSETTING THE MILITARY
BALANCE IN THAT REGION AND REQUIRES FULL ADVANCE CONSULTA-
TION WITH THE CONGRESS. PRIOR TO ANY FURTHER WITHDRAWAL
THE PRESIDENT SHOULD REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON THE EFFECT
OF ANY PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL PLAN ON PRESERVING DETERRENCE

IN KOREA; THE REACTION ANTICIPATED FROM NORTH KOREA; A CONSIDERATION ON THE EFFECT OF THE PLAN ON INCREASING INCENTIVES FOR SOUTH KOREA TO DEVELOP AN INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR DETERRENT; THE EFFECT OF ANY WITHDRAWAL ON OUR LONG-TERM MILITARY AND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP WITH JAPAN; THE EFFECT OF ANY PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL ON THE UNITED STATES/CHINESE AND UNITED STATES/SOVIET MILITARY BALANCE; AND, THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF ANY PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL ON THE SOVIET/CHINESE MILITARY SITUATION.
END TEXT.

3. THIS AMENDMENT EVOLVED OUT OF AN EARLIER CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SENATOR PERCY'S PLAN TO INTRODUCE AN AMENDMENT STRONGLY CRITICAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S WITHDRAWAL POLICY, AND A COMPROMISE EFFORT LED BY SENATOR GLENN DESIGNED TO AVOID CONDEMNING THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY WHILE STILL REASSURING THE SKEPTICS AND STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF CAREFUL AND PRUDENT ASSESSMENTS AT EACH STAGE OF WITHDRAWAL IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESS. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SENATOR NUNN'S KEY SUPPORT AND COSPONSORSHIP, ORIGINAL GLENN AMENDMENT WAS MODIFIED RELATIVELY CLOSE TO FINAL VERSION. ALMOST IN FINAL MINUTES BEFORE THE DEBATE ACTUALLY BEGAN, FURTHER DISCUSSION LED TO SENATOR PERCY MERGING HIS SEPARATE EFFORT AND JOINING HIS SPONSORSHIP WITH THE GLENN/NUNN INITIATIVE. PERCY THEN ACTUALLY INTRODUCED THE FINAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMENDMENT AND MADE THE PRINCIPAL SPEECH. GLENN AND NUNN ALSO SPOKE AT LENGTH, WHILE SOMEWHAT BRIEFER REMARKS WERE MADE BY DOLE AND JAVITS.

4. FINAL LIST OF COSPONSORS WAS: BAKER, DANFORTH, JAVITS, LUGAR, GRIFFIN, SCHMITT, MORGAN, GOLDWATER, BARTLETT, JOHNSTON, HAYAKAWA, STEVENS, GARN, CANNON, GLENN, NUNN, TOWER, BROOKE, THURMOND, CHILES, CASE, AND DOLE.

5. THE PRESIDENT'S JULY 20 LETTER TO SENATOR BYRD (REF A) APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE KEY TO AVOIDING ANY CONTENTIOUS OUTCOME OR DIRECT CHALLENGE TO THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM. THAT LETTER WAS PLACED INTO THE RECORD.

6. ENTIRE DEBATE WAS SUPPORTIVE OF STRONG AND PRUDENT SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS IN NORTHEAST ASIA, AND MAINTENANCE OF U.S.. COMMITMENTS AND DETERRENCE. GLENN ALSO READ INTO THE RECORD THE TEXT OF HIS APRIL 4 LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT (REF B), WHICH HAD NOT HERETOFORE BEEN PUBLIC. THERE WERE NO ATTACKS ON ROKG.

7. ALL AMENDMENTS AND DEBATE IN THE SENATE ON THE
FY-1979 MUTUAL SECURITY AUTHORIZATION BILL HAVE NOW BEEN

COMPLETED, AND THE BILL ITSELF MAY BE VOTED BY
SENATE BEFORE THIS MESSAGE RECEIVED. COMPENSATORY
EQUIPMENT TRANSFER AUTHORITY AND FMS CREDIT AUTHORIZA-
TION FOR THE ROK FORCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IS THEREFORE
INTACT AS PASSED BY THE SENATE. THE HOUSE IS TENTATIVELY
SCHEDULE TO TAKE UP THE BILL NEXT WEEK.

8. COMMENT: WHILE WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A SOME-
WHAT WARMER AMENDMENT IN RELATION TO THE ADMINISTRA-
TION'S GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL PROGRAM (IF THERE WAS TO
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BE ANY KOREA AMENDMENT AT ALL), TONIGHT'S DEBATE
SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN DISABUSING NORTH KOREA OF ANY
IDEA THAT KOREAGATE SCANDALS HAVE SERIOUSLY UNDERMINED
CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR PREVENTING COMMUNIST
AGGRESSION AGAINST SOUTH KOREA. CHRISTOPHER

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH, JR.

APPROVED BY EA/K:RGRICH, JR.

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P 272042Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII PRIORITY 0909

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOL RPT STATE 189479 ACTION SEOUL INFO TOKYO 27 JUL 78 QUOTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, AMENDMENTS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE189479
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGRICH,JR.:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780307-0615
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780713/aaaaalci.tel
Line Count: 287
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dd2cd76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 186618, 78 STATE 88116
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1866344
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATE KOREA DEBATE AND MUTUAL SECURITY ACT AMENDMENT
TAGS: MASS, MARR, KS, US
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dd2cd76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014